

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area Inventory Number: PG: 76A-55  
 Address: MD 5 (Branch Avenue) and MD 637 (Naylor Road) between Suitland Parkway and Curtis Lane Historic district:  yes  no  
 City: Silver Hill, MD Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: Prince Georges  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Anacostia  
 Property Owner: Multiple Tax Account ID Number: Multiple  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): Multiple Tax Map Number: 080  
 Project: MD 637 and MD 5: Suitland Parkway to Curtis Lane Agency: FHWA/SHA  
 Agency Prepared By: MD SHA  
 Preparer's Name: Anne E. Bruder and Ryan DeSmith Date Prepared: 10/23/2012  
 Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible:  yes  no Listed:  yes  no  
 Site visit by MHT Staff  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Property and Justification:** *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area consists of 17 commercial buildings located along MD 5 (Branch Avenue) and Naylor Road (MD 637). These represent the small commercial district that formed beginning in the 1930s around the intersection of the highways about a mile from the District of Columbia boundary. The Silver Hill Commercial Survey encompasses 14.272 acres of land at the crossroads of Branch Avenue and Naylor Road. It is an unincorporated town situated in the Suitland area in Prince George's County Maryland. Other unincorporated towns nearby include Temple Hills, Kay Park, Camp Springs, and Good Hope Hills. The buildings are generally one story, face a highway and have neon signs which are used to attract patrons and customers. The preponderance of the businesses are dedicated to social activities including two music clubs, liquor stores and restaurants, as well as other commercial activities.

Mid-Atlantic Seafood, 3111 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill, is a commercial structure is an example of the colonial revival style. The resource was constructed as a Howard Johnson's restaurant associated with the hotel located on an adjoining parcel. The one-story structure was built in 1961 according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. The one-story, hip roof, seven-bay structure is oriented towards Branch Avenue (MD 5). Fenestration consists of an enframed window wall and wrap-around picture windows. The structure has concrete block walls with a low-pitch, hip style, tile clad roof. The original Howard

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Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended   
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**MHT Comments:**

*John J. Russo*  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

12/18/12  
 Date

*Elizabeth*  
 Reviewer, National Register Program

12/18/12  
 Date

Johnson's tile roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles, and the Howard Johnson's cupola has been removed. A concrete block, flat roof 1 story addition is connected at the west elevation, and it extends beyond the perimeter of the main pile to the west and south. The main entry is through paired glass doors in the east façade. One interior concrete block chimney rises from the south elevation. There is lighted signage on raised poles with "Mid Atlantic Soul Food Seafood Chicken Ribs" located on the roof facing Branch Avenue. Oriented to the east, the resource is situated centrally on a square parcel. Several mature trees are located along the eastern end of the property. Small shrubs and grass are located around the perimeter of the resource. The parcel is flat with an asphalt parking lot surrounding the structure and encompasses most of the property. The historic boundary consists of a one-acre lot and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 000 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. The building has had alterations.

Holiday Center, 3175 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill, is a one-story commercial structure that was built in 1955, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Oriented to the east, this standing structure is situated on the northwest corner of Parcel 079, which is shared by another commercial structure, Dia II Beauty Salon at 3201 Branch Avenue. The building has 3 storefronts and is of common bond brick construction with metal overhang and parapet and flat roof. Paired glass picture windows and glass entry doors for 3 shops are located along the east façade. A metal sign is attached by raised poles along the parapet with "Holiday Center Sports Liquor Restaurant" in neon lights. The parcel is flat with a chain link fence located at north elevation. Mature trees and grass are located at the northwest corner of the structure. An asphalt parking lot encompasses the entire parcel surrounding both buildings. Access to the resource is via two driveways located at the northeast and southeast corners of the parcel along Branch Avenue. A third entry is located along the west end of the parcel via an access road originating from the Crab Café located on Naylor Road and accessing the resource parking lot in between the two structures located on the parcel. The historic boundary consists of .434 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 079 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. The building has had few alterations.

Dia II Beauty Salon, 3201 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a one-story commercial structure that was built in 1955, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Historically, the resource was also known as the Holiday Sunoco Gas Station, and associated with the Holiday Center, also located on the same parcel. The one-story structure is oriented towards Branch Avenue and has an office area with floor-to-ceiling windows and two former garage bays that have been enclosed. The concrete-block structure has a flat roof. An overhanging parapet contains horizontal aluminum-clad siding. A series of picture windows are located along the east façade with a single glass entry door located in one bay, and paired metal doors. A contemporary wooden sign is attached by raised poles centrally on top of the parapet with the business logo. The south elevation consists of two metal entry doors (possibly leading to the former restrooms). Paired picture windows are located at the southeast corner and connect with the picture windows located at the east façade. Oriented to the east, this resource is located near the southeast corner of Parcel 079. Mature trees and grass are located along the south and west elevations. An asphalt parking lot encompasses the entire parcel surrounding both Dia II Beauty Salon and the Holiday Liquor buildings. Access to the resource is via two driveways located at the southeast and northeast corners of the parcel along Branch Avenue. A third entry is located along the west side of the parcel via an access road originating from the Crab Café located on Naylor Road and accessing the resource parking lot in between the two structures located on the parcel. The historic boundary consists of .434 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 079 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. The building has been altered through the loss of gas station functions, and enclosing the 2 garage bays.

Fletcher's Inn, 3211 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a multi-story, multi-wing commercial structure that was built 1935, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Historically, the resource was known as a restaurant called Strick's. The building exterior consists of brick walls that have been covered over with stucco, and a hip roof clad in composite asphalt shingles. In addition to the hip-roof pile, there is a two-story addition with two one-story wings on the east, north and west elevations. The two wings wrap around the east and west elevations of the main pile. The one-story, south façade is oriented

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ward the Naylor Road and Branch Avenue intersection. There are seven bays with windows on the south façade. Single, twelve-foot arched windows with a dentil molding on the cornice are located under the roof's eave. Two arched, glass entry doors are located along the southeast and southwest corners of the structure in each wing. Five metal neon signs are located over the entry doors and windows. A broad, exterior brick chimney is located at the north elevation. Oriented to the south, the structure is located at the northeast section of a triangular corner parcel between Branch Avenue and Naylor Road. Deciduous trees align the northern perimeter of the property and grass is located along the southern tip of the parcel. An asphalt parking lot and raised sidewalk encompass the remainder of the property. Access to the resource is along four entry points; two that provide access behind the structure connecting Branch Avenue to Naylor Road, and two that are located towards the southern end of the property along Branch and Naylor, divided by an elevated concrete sidewalk. The historic boundary consists of .595 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 080 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. The building has been altered, but it retains its original form.

Danny's Pizza, 3308 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a one-story, 4-bay commercial structure that was built in 1958, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Historically, the resource was also known as Hi-Boy Donut Shop. The building is located centrally on a flat, rectangular parcel oriented towards Branch Avenue. The brick structure has a flat vertical wooden parapet and a low-pitch, aluminum clad parapet awning as part of the roof. Paired glass entry doors project one bay from the main elevation, and an enframed window wall comprise the façade at the southeast end of the building. A low formstone wall supports the series of picture windows. Florescent signs with the business name are attached along the parapet and awning section. Mature trees are located along the perimeter of the north, south, and west side of the property. Grassy areas are located along the property entrance and behind the building. Access to the resource is via two slightly graded entry points along Branch Avenue, forming a triangular grass island in the center. The remaining area located in front of the east façade is an asphalt parking lot. The historic boundary consists of .445 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 000 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. The building has been altered.

Branch Avenue Liquors, 3302 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a two-story commercial structure was built in 1945 according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Historically, the resource was known as Uncle Tom's Liquor Store and Tavern. The building is oriented towards Branch Avenue, and is located on the northeast corner of a flat, rectangular parcel. The building's exterior is of common bond brick with low-pitch, hip roof with asphalt composite shingles. The ground level contains a projecting bay of common bond brick cladding and fixed windows beneath a wooden shingle clad gable awning (this may have been a drive-through window at one time). The second story contains single six-over-six sash windows and a vertical metal and glass flange sign located along the northwest corner. Eyebrow vents pierce the hip roof on the south and west sides of the roof. The south façade also contains a single glass entry door. A brick exterior chimney rises along the exterior of the south elevation. A window located on the second level has been covered with wood. The north façade consists of fenestration that varies depending on the functions of the rooms – all are double hung sash windows with six-over six lights. All of the windows in the second floor have bars over them. Large metal air conditioning vents are located centrally on the ground level. A single entry door located towards the east elevation with metal stairs leading to the rear of the property. An exterior chimney rises at the northeast corner, with an arched vent located centrally along the hip roof. The building has been altered.

Ojal Laundry, 3306 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a one-story commercial addition attached to the south elevation of Branch Avenue Liquors that was built in 1969. The exterior consists of a running bond brick cladding with a plastic awning and flat roof. The structure contains divided fixed commercial display windows and paired glass entry doors. Historically, the resource was also known as the Silver Hill Esso Service Center Branch No. 1. Mature trees are located along the perimeter of the south and east-facing areas of the property. Access to the resource is via two slightly graded entry points along Branch Avenue, forming a triangular grass island in the center. Entry onto the property leads to a parking lot located behind the structure. A one-way exit is also located at the northwest corner of the parcel. The historic boundary consists of .551 acres and is confined to the tax parcel

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Boundaries shown for Parcel 231 and Parcel 303 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. The building is less than fifty years of age and has been altered from its original function as a gas station.

Branch Avenue Auto Body and Car Wash/Gas Station (or J&J Car Wash & Audio), 3300 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a one-story commercial structure that was built 1954, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Historically, the resource was known as the Branch Avenue Mobil Service Station. Oriented to the west towards Branch Avenue, the structure is located centrally on a flat, rectangular parcel along the eastern perimeter of the property. The building is a typical example of a 1950s Mobil gas station consisting of an oblong box form constructed of running bond brick, and a flat roof with enamel-clad cornice. The west façade includes two broad metal roll up service bay doors, a single glass entry door, and floor-to-ceiling fixed windows with protective metal screening. The south elevation contains paired floor-to-ceiling fixed windows with protective metal screening and two solid metal entry doors. Mature trees and grass are located along the perimeter of the parcel. Access to the resource is via two slightly graded entry points along Branch Avenue, forming a grass island in the center. The remaining portion of the parcel contains an asphalt parking lot. The historic boundary consists of .296 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 246 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. The building has not been physically altered, but the gas pumps and canopy have been removed.

Branch Avenue Auto Body Shop, 3304 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill, is located behind the Branch Avenue Auto Body and Car Wash, and is a one-story, commercial south structure is currently abandoned. The side gable roof structure is clad with aluminum siding, and the roof has a low-pitch and is covered with asphalt composite shingles. There are two roll-up metal doors in the south elevation. The building has two additions, one on the west elevation that is a shed roof addition and the second another side-gable roof addition with a metal roll-up door in the south elevation. The structure is located centrally on a parcel with flat surface and sloping driveway connecting to Branch Avenue along the southwest corner of the property. Mature trees are located along the perimeter of the parcel, with asphalt driveway and parking lot comprising the remaining portion of the property. The historic boundary consists of .294 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 068 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. The building has lost its integrity of design, workmanship, feeling and association through the alterations and closure.

Branch Market, 3214 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a one-story commercial structure which was built in 1946, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Historically, resource was also known as Murry's Steaks Inc. Grocery & Meats. Oriented to the west, the one-story structure is located centrally on a flat, rectangular parcel oriented to the west towards Branch Avenue. The 3-bay building has paired fixed display windows, a single fixed window, and a fixed window joined with the double entrance doors. The building is clad in common bond brick with a standing seam metal and wood awning parapet. The roof is flat. A metal gate over the front door and window alter the entrances appearance. The south elevation consists of two filled in windows marked by sills above and below the former openings. Mature trees are located along the east perimeter of the parcel. Access to the resource is via direct access from Branch Avenue. The west and south-facing elevation contains an asphalt parking lot. Bumpy's, an adjoining structure located on the same parcel, faces west. The two businesses are storefronts in the single building. The historic boundary consists of .356 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 154 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. Alterations include the front awning which has been painted and new entrance doors.

Bumpy's, 3216 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a one-story commercial structure was built in 1946, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Historically, the resource was also known as Dewey M Freeman Real Estate Sales & Appraisals. The one-story, west façade is oriented towards Branch Avenue and is attached to the Branch Market on its south side. The two businesses are storefronts in the single building. The exterior cladding consists of red common bond brick that has been painted white in some areas, and clad with a formstone veneer and mansard style corrugated metal awning around the

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main entrance. A single metal one-light entry door with metal bars and single fixed window also with metal bars are located on the west façade. A vertical wooden advertisement sign is attached to the parapet. The buildings original brick is visible around the main entrance and at the west and north sides of the building. Access to the resource is directly from Branch Avenue onto an asphalt parking lot. The north elevation contains a small chain fence with a grass lined alley separating the resource from a neighboring commercial property. Mature trees are visible along the east perimeter of the property. The historic boundary consists of .356 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 154 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. Alterations include the installation of the awning, which has been painted, as has the façade.

Asian Restaurant & Liquor, 3210 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a one-story commercial structure was built in 1948, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. The six bay structure and has a common bond brick cladding with a corrugated aluminum, block-style awning and parapet in front of a flat roof.

The Asian Restaurant is located in the northern part of the building and consists of a single, metal, diamond light entry door and paired round windows set into red aluminum siding. Historically, the resource was also known as Riordan's Restaurant Inc. The Asian Liquor store façade in the southern part of the building consists of an enframed window wall with single glass entry door and a series of picture windows. There is a soldier course above all of the windows and doors along the top of the sills. A metal and canvas awning containing business titles is attached to the parapet. Mature trees are located along the east perimeter of the parcel. Access to the resource is via direct access from Branch Avenue. The west facing elevation contains an asphalt parking lot with a series of metal pipes extending from the ground three feet, diagonally towards the resource. The south-facing elevation contains a small chain fence with a grass lined alleyway separating the resource from a neighboring commercial property. The historic boundary consists of .254 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 155 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County. The building has been altered through the construction of the awning and parapet and the covering of the windows in the restaurant.

Capitol Carry Out & In-style Apparel & Branch Auto Electric, 3200 Branch Avenue, Silver Hill is a 3-store front one-story commercial structure that was built in 1955, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database.

Historically, In-Style Apparel was also known as Shelby-Fullers Pro Shop. The one-story structure is oriented west towards Branch Avenue on a flat, rectangular parcel. The front façade is of formstone columns, common bond brick or formstone walls below the windows and fixed double commercial windows and doors to form the three storefronts. Above the windows and doors is a large overhanging awning with vertical corrugated metal parapet. Wooden triangular and neon signage with company title are attached on raised poles along the parapet. The north elevation contains single and paired sash windows with bars covering the each, a single metal entry door, and two large aluminum rolling doors. The south elevation contains two windows that have been partially bricked in, although grates are installed, and a third window is covered with a grate. There is a concrete curb extending into the alley. Mature trees are located along the east perimeter of the parcel. Access to the resource is via direct access from Branch Avenue and access road from a neighboring commercial business located along the north elevation. A slight grade from west facing façade continues towards the east. An asphalt parking lot is located around the entire parameter of the building with a raised sidewalk extending from Branch Avenue along the north elevation. The historic boundary consists of .418 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 230 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County.

Towers Branch Avenue Shopping Center is located at 3100 Branch Avenue in Silver Hill, Maryland. The one-story commercial structure was built in 1963, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Historically, this structure was also known as G.E.M. Department Stores Inc. (Government Employees Mart). The shops catered to military families and provided goods and services through membership programs. G.E.M Department Stores closed nationwide in 1973. Oriented to the southwest, the structure is set back from the road located along the upper northeast corner of a triangular parcel that slopes upward from north to south elevation. The parcel borders Suitland Parkway at the north elevation and contains a concrete retaining wall along the south elevation. An abandoned access road leads to an unused asphalt parking lot located at the southeast

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corner of the parcel. The two-story, west façade is a two-part commercial block with enframed window wall oriented towards Branch Avenue. Fenestration is irregular and asymmetrical consisting of a concrete block structure, pilasters, and flat roof aluminum-clad parapets. Towers Shopping Center contains nine shops, two which are vacant.

River of Life Church, Coin Laundry Cleaners, and Kingdom Savings Thrift Store comprise the first three businesses. The store front is set back from street with an upper floor built as an overhang supported by metal pilasters. The second floor contains ribbon windows throughout the upper story with a flat roof.

Ever Increasing Life Ministries, Branch Avenue Pawn Brokers, and Uniqek Banquet Hall, and a vacant storefront contain single glass entry doors, paired and ribbon picture windows, and metal corrugated awning parapets. The shops within this section are single story construction. The remaining two businesses comprise the second-half of the shopping center. The Skate Palace is a two-story business containing paired glass entry doors and ribbon windows along the second floor. Centrally located on the second floor is a glass walled, display area containing four chandeliers, with a flat roof. The Complex Entertainment Fitness Center is currently vacant with boarded windows and a steep, corrugated metal-clad, shed roof. Mature trees are located along the perimeter of the north elevation; the remainder of the parcel contains asphalt parking lots and two commercial structures, A & K Tires and Candy Branch. Access to the resource is via two access roads located along the northwest and southwest perimeter of the parcel connecting to Branch Avenue. The historic boundary consists of 8.014 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel-A on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County.

Candy Branch is located along the southwest retaining wall. Fenestration is irregular and asymmetrical consisting of a concrete block structure with flat roof. The north façade contains a boarded window, single metal entry door, and bay window with a built-in ticket window.

A & K Tires is a one-story, commercial structure built in 1963, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Oriented to the northeast, the resource is located at the southern perimeter of the parcel within the Towers Branch Avenue Shopping Center parking lot. The exterior is clad in running bond brick structure and has flat roof. The east façade contains two, single picture windows, single glass entry door, and three service bays.

The Legend or The Quonset Inn, 3225 Naylor Road, Silver Hill is a one-story commercial structure that was built in 1944, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. Historically, the resource was also known as The Quonset Inn, a nightclub dating from the mid-1940s until the mid-1970s. The one-story resource is located on a hill, oriented west towards Oxon Run Drive with a separate entrance facing Naylor Road. The barrel vaulted structure has an asphalt shingle roof along the top of the arch, with a one-story running bond brick structure set on a concrete foundation with a flat roof, connected to the Quonset hut structure on the east elevation. The north and south elevations of the Quonset Inn contain vertical aluminum-clad siding that forms both walls of the building. The west façade contains a single metal entry door with gable roof awning extending from entry door to north elevation. Concrete stairs lead from resource entrance towards the abandoned commercial lot located on Oxon Run Drive. The asphalt parking lot area slopes downward from the north elevation towards the east elevation. The parcel borders Naylor Road along the north elevation, Oxon Run Drive along west façade, and Good Hope Avenue on the east elevation, while mature trees and an abandoned commercial lot are located on the south elevation. Access to the resource is via two paired entrances along Naylor Road at the northeast and northwest ends of the property, and an access road from Good Hope Avenue located at the southeast corner of the property. The historic boundary consists of .642 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 000 on the 2012 Parcel Map 079 for Prince George's County.

Crab Café, 3330 Naylor Road, Silver Hill is a one-story commercial structure was built in 1935 as the Poplar Spring Gardens restaurant, according to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation Database. The front gable structure is oriented to the west on a flat, rectangular parcel facing Naylor Road. There are three bays consisting of two fixed picture windows and a glass

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por. The exterior is clad in formstone that has been painted, and it is topped by a low-pitched, side-gabled roof with composite asphalt shingles. The south elevation has two additions, both with shallow shed roofs. The one near the southwest corner of the building appears to be integral to the building's construction since it is also clad in formstone. The second addition consists of one metal door and a fixed window in the west elevation and two fixed windows on the south elevation. There are two more additions on the east and north sides of the building. Each is one story and encompasses the original structure on these elevations. Industrial fans pierce the roof in four locations while the HVAC system is on the northeast roof. The side-gabled roof contains metal rods which attach to a metal overhang located over the entry. Mature trees are located west and north-facing perimeter of the property. Sidewalk and grass islands are located along the south façade parallel with Naylor Road, with the remainder of the parcel comprised of an asphalt parking lot. Accessibility to the resource is via two roads at the southeast and southwest corners of the property. A third access road is located at the northeast corner of the property which connects neighboring commercial properties, Holiday Center and Dia II Beauty Salon. The historic boundary consists of .973 acres and is confined to the tax parcel boundaries shown for Parcel 078 on the 2012 Parcel Map 080 for Prince George's County.

When the State Roads Commission (SRC) took control of Maryland's road system in 1908, it included a road that connected the District of Columbia at its southeast boundary with southern Maryland. Naylor Road (MD 637), which begins in Washington, is shown on nineteenth century Prince George's County maps, including Martenet's 1861 Prince George's County Map and the 1878 C. M. Hopkins Atlas of the County of Prince George, Maryland. Although the SRC has an early plan to construct Branch Avenue as MD 5 was initially called, it did not begin construction until after the end of World War I. According to the SRC's Report from 1930, the highway had been widened to twenty-feet by 1930. The SRC's improvements along Naylor Road encouraged some commercial development in the 1930s, including Fletcher's Inn (formerly known as Strick's Restaurant) which is at the apex of MD 5 and MD 637, as well as the Crab Café, both of which were constructed in 1935. The 1945 7.5 USGS Anacostia Quadrangle shows several buildings standing along MD 637, as well as the construction of the Suitland Parkway which connected Andrews Air Force Base with downtown Washington, DC and served as a ceremonial route to the White House. The routes of the three highways helped to define the extent of the mid-twentieth century commercial development in Silver Hill and each building faces either MD 5 or MD 637 to take advantage of traffic coming from and going towards Washington, D.C.

Based on a review of some of the land records associated with various properties, two families in the 1920s and in the 1940s held a majority of the land – first Ramona Mann and her husband, Joe and then Conrad Von Garrell and his wife. The Manns bought the land on either side of Branch Avenue starting in 1926 and sold portions of it starting in the 1940s to the Von Garrells, who in turn sold to Dewey Freeman. In the 1930s, Prince George's County began to attract new residents who were white and from the South who came to work for the Federal Government. In 1942, the U.S. Census Bureau was constructed as part of the Federal Office Center in Suitland, while Andrews Air Force Base opened in May 1943 as the Camp Springs Army Air Field, which brought additional workers to the area. Residential developments in close proximity to the Silver Hill Commercial Area include Hillcrest Heights (PG:76A-44) and Morningside (PG:76A-39). These governmental and residential developments began to influence the commercial development of Silver Hill, since there were few towns with shopping districts nearby. Although the Poplar Spring Gardens restaurant (now Crab Café) and Strick's Restaurant (now Fletcher's Inn) date from the 1930s, by the 1950s these restaurants along with the Quonset Hut (now The Legend) offered dinner and dancing as entertainment and reflect the importance of these activities as a social outlet for nearby middle class residents and workers. The remainder of the buildings along MD 5 and MD 637 are examples of the commercial development that occurred following World War II.

During the 1940s and early-1950s, Fletcher's Inn offered live country music and light jazz entertainment, which attracted customers from nearby work centers such as the Suitland Federal Center and Andrews Air Force Base. In 1954, country music became the featured attraction. Following the purchase of the club by Giles Fletcher Sr. in January 1954, it began offering what was known as "hillbilly club" music. By 1955, Fletcher's had booked Bill Peer and His Melody Boys, with vocalist Patsy Cline. In 1956, Fletcher's became one of the first hillbilly clubs in the DC area to offer rock & roll when it booked a group called Rock

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 Date

nd Roll Charlie. Strick's offered all day music sessions that featured Peer's group as well as The Outlaws, Three of Us Trio, The Naturals, Roy Clark and the Stardusters, Charlie Daniels and the Jaguars, and Wanda Jackson. Bill Peer and His Melody Boys were part of a musical circuit that included playing at dinner-and-dance events in Brunswick at the Moose Lodge, and as well as nightclubs in Chesapeake Beach. The last live performance was by A Special Blend, a Prince George's County jazz-rock band, in 1975. Likewise, the Legend (or Quonset Hut) was another club in the vicinity that offered dinner and dancing on its round dance floor. (Opsasnick, P. 18, 25, and 41)

Other businesses in the Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area include restaurants, gas stations and specialty shops such as Murry's Steaks (now Branch Market) and Hi-Boy Donuts (now Danny's Pizza), as well as national chains such as Howard Johnson's. Most of the businesses were independent, and the construction of the one story commercial buildings began in 1945 with the purchase of lots by Dewey Freeman. His first building was constructed at 3214 and 3216 (Branch Market and Bumpsey's respectively) Branch Avenue, followed by 3210, the Asian Restaurant & Liquor Store in 1948, and 3200 Branch Avenue, the location of the Capitol Carry Out, In-Style Apparel and Branch Auto Electric shops, that were constructed in 1955. Freeman used 3216 as his real estate office, although the extent of his real estate dealings in the area and in Prince George's County is not clear (he does not appear to have been involved in the development of Hillcrest Heights on the east side of Naylor Road in the 1950s). Each of the commercial buildings is similar in design, but not precisely alike. Each is of red brick, with large shop windows, glass entrance doors, and flat roofs. The open area of the shop allows the individual owners to arrange the shop's layout. Formstone has been added in certain areas to provide some design variety. Automobile use was accommodated in each location with parking spaces in front of each building. The buildings do not stand at the front property line, but each is placed approximately 20 feet from the edge of the highway. The space is sufficient for a few cars to be parked while shoppers conduct their business.

Silver Hill's commercial buildings were constructed by different individuals over a four decade period between 1935 and 1969. Their spatial relationship does not illustrate a planned community development, but rather, individual developments by various owners. As a result, the buildings in the Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area do not demonstrate the cohesiveness necessary to form an historic district. Alterations in the various buildings have occurred and the Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area lacks integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Based on research conducted for this project, SHA did not identify events or persons of local, state or national significance associated with any building in Silver Hill, and has determined that the Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area is not eligible under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A (events) or B (persons). Additional research conducted under NRHP Criterion C (architecture) did not identify that the buildings are associated with a known local, state or national architect, and thus these are not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C (engineering/architecture). NRHP Criterion D was not included in this study.

The Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area encompasses 14.272 acres of land.

Sources Consulted:

Jones, Margaret, "Patsy: The Life and Times of Patsy Cline," New York: HarperCollinPublishers (1994)

Suitland-Capital Heights, District Heights, Forrest Heights, and Morningside City Directory 1971

Maryland Magazine, "Silver Hill: The Smithsonian's Other Air & Space Museum," V. 11, Pg 31-35, Winter 1978.

Maryland State Roads Commission, Plan and Profile of Proposed State Highway, SRC Contract No. P391-001-515, 1949 and

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

950; and P597, 1949.

Opsasnick, Mark, "Capitol Rock," Baltimore: Xlibris Corporation (2002)

Prince George's County Land Records, accessed through the Maryland State Archives (mdlandrec.net) 10/22/2012.

Suitland Article "Properties go to War Department" Aug 1941, Vertical File, Pratt Library

Watson, James Douglas, "Prince George's County Past & Present," D.C.: Federal Lithograph Company (1962)

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:    A    B    C    D    Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

MHT Comments:

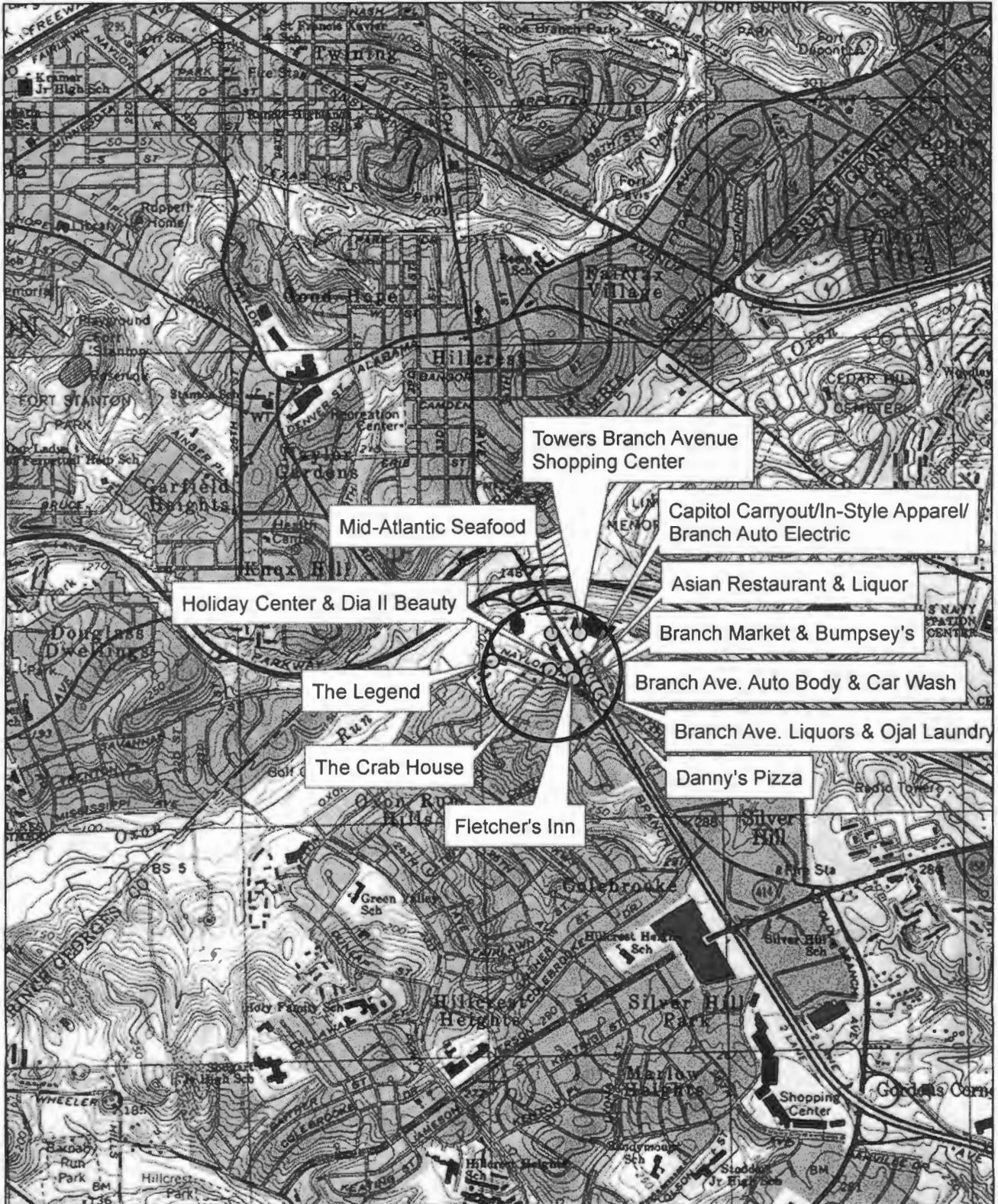
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Location Map  
Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area, PG: 76A-55  
Anacostia USGS Quadrangle  
1:24,000



**Maryland State Highway Administration  
Cultural Resources Section  
Photo Log**

**Project No.:** PG782B21

**Project Name:** MD 637 and MD 5 between Suitland Parkway and Curtis Lane

**MIHP No.:** PG:76A-55

**MIHP Name:** Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area

**County:** Prince George's

**Photographer:** Anne E. Bruder/ Ryan DeSmith

**Date:** July 17, 2012

**Ink and Paper Combination:** Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper

**CD/DVD:** Verbatim, CD-R, Archival Gold

<b>Image File Name</b>	<b>Description of View</b>
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_01.tif	Looking west at Mid-Atlantic Seafood at façade facing east
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_02.tif	Looking northwest at Mid-Atlantic Seafood at east façade and south elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_03.tif	Looking west at Holiday Center at façade facing east
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_04.tif	Looking west at Dia II Beauty Salon at north façade and east elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_05.tif	Looking northeast at Fletcher's Inn at south façade and west elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_06.tif	Looking southeast at Danny's Pizza at west façade and north elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_07.tif	Looking northeast at Ojal Laundry & Branch Ave. Liquors at west façade and south elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_08.tif	Looking southeast at Branch Ave. Liquors & Ojal Laundry at west façade and north elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_09.tif	Looking north at Branch Ave. Auto Body & Car Wash/Gas Station at west façade and south elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_10.tif	Looking north at Branch Market at west façade and south elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_11.tif	Looking east at Bumpsy's at front façade facing west
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_12.tif	Looking north at Asian Restaurant & Liquor at west façade and south elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_13.tif	Looking southeast at Capital Carryout at west façade and north elevation
PG;76A-55_2012-06-20_14.tif	Looking northeast at Towers Branch Shopping Center at left end façade facing south



MID ATLANTIC  
SOUL FOOD / FRIED CHICKEN RIBS

11am-2pm Lunch Special  
W 2 Sides  
Whiting  
Crawfish & More

Now Open  
Breakfast

9111

RING

696240



PG, 76A-55.

SILVER ANN COMMERCIAL SUBURBY AREA

PRINCE GEORGES, MD

BRENDA / DESMITH.

JUNE 20, 2012

MD SAFO.

LOOKING WEST AT MMD ATLANTIC  
SEA FOOD

VZC



PG 761-55.

SALYER HOW COMMERCIAL SURVEY  
NO. 8.

PRINCE GEORGE'S MD

BRADY/DESMITH

6-20-12.

IND. SAPO.

LOOKING NORTHWEST AT MID ATLANTIC  
~~ROAD~~ EAST FACADE'S SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

2/20

HOLIDAY CENTER  
SPORTS LIQUOR RESTAURANT



PG: 76A-55

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA

FRANCE GEORGE'S UND.

FRUMPER / DE SMITH

6-20-12

IND SAFO.

LOOKING WEST AT HOLIDAY CENTER EAST  
FACADE

3/20



D&H  
BEAUTY SALON

SPORTS

2001

1/6

1/6

1/6

1/6

1/6

PG: 76A-55

STURGEON HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA

PRINCE GEORGE'S MD

BREWER/DESMITH

6-20-12

MD SALES

LOOKING WEST AT DN II BEAUTY SALON  
AT NORTH FACADE & EAST ELEVATION

4/20



PG: 76A-55.

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA.  
PRINCE GEORGES MD.

BRUNDER / DISAMTA

6-20-12

MD SAPO.

LOOKING NORTHWEST AT FLETCHER'S INN  
AT SOUTH FACADE'S EAST ELEVATION.

S/20



PG: 76A-85.

Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area  
FRANCE GEORGE'S MD.

FRENCH / DE SMITH

6-20-12

MD SAPO.

LOOKING SOUTH EAST AT DANKO'S POND  
AT WEST FACIE. & NORTH ELEVATION

6/20



PG: 76A-55

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SWEETENING AGES  
RANGE, GEORGE'S MD.

FRANKLIN/DE SWITH

6-20-12

IND SAGE

LOOKING NORTH EAST AT QJAL LAUNDRY  
BY FRANKLIN AVE. LIQUORS AT WEST  
FARADE, S SOUTH ELEVATION

7/20



BRANCH AVENUE

LIQUORS

WESTERN UNION

PATRON HEADQUARTERS

Miller 64  
CHECK WE DO

GOLDEST BEER IN TOWN

HOURS  
Monday-Saturday  
8am-12am

Miller 64

BRANCH AVENUE LIQUORS

EVERY DAY LOW PRICES • CHECK CASH • LOTTERY

FAX  
CASH  
TODAY  
UNION

PG: 76A-55.

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA.

PRINCE GEORGE'S MD

BRUNER/DESMITH.

6-20-12

IND SHTD.

LOOKING SOUTHEAST AT FRONTAGE

LIQUOR & CO. LAUNDRY AT WEST

FACADE & NORTH ELEVATION

8/20



PG: 76A-55.

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA  
PENNY GEORGE'S INV.

FRANK/DESMITH

6-20-12

IND SAFO

LOOKING NORTH AT FRANK AVE. AUTO  
BODY & GARAGE / GAS STATION

AT WEST FACADE & SOUTH ELEVATION

9/20



**BRANCH MARKET** 301-636-6906  
**SEAFOOD & SOUL FOOD**  
RIB, PORK CHOP, CHICKEN WING, SHRIMP, FISH, HOT STEAMED CRABS

BRANCH  
MARKET

PG: 76A-55

SALTER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA

FRANCE GEORGE'S MD

FRANSE/DESMITH

6/20/12

IND SAFO

LOOKING NORTH AT RANCH MARKET  
AT WEST FACADE & SOUTH ELEVATION

10/20



**Bumpsy's**  
clothing • phones • shoes • accessories  
301

31 78 184

PG: 76A-55

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA  
PRINCE GEORGE'S MD

BRIDGE/DESMITH

6/20/12 AND SAPO

LOOKING EAST AT RAMPBY'S WEST  
FRACADE

W/20



OPEN 24 HRS

RESTAURANT  
CHINESE & AMERICAN FOOD

ASIAN

LIQUOR  
CARRY-OUT

OPEN 24 HRS

172

29

GUINNESS

Red Stripe

NY STATE YORK

\$9.99

UNLIMITED EVERYTHING

OPEN 24 HRS

PG: 76A-55

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA  
PRINCE GEORGE'S MD

BRUNDELL/DESMITH

6/20/12

MD SAPO

LOOKING NORTH AT AKAN RESTAURANT  
& LIQUOR AT WEST FACADE. E SOUTH  
ELEVATION

17/20



PG: 76A 55.

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA  
PRINCE GEORGE'S MD

~~BRIDGE/DESMITH~~

6/20/12

MD SAPO

LOOKING SOUTH EAST AT CAPITAL GATEWAY -  
OUT AT WEST FACADE & NORTH  
ELEVATION

13/20



PG: 76A-55

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA  
PRINCE GEORGE'S MD.

BOWEN/DESMITH

6/20/12

VMSA

LOOKING NORTHWEST AT TOWERS BRANCH  
SHORTLY CENTER WEST END  
SOUTH FACADE

14/20



PG: 76A-55

SILVER SPRING, COMMERCIAL SUEVEP AREA

PRINCE GEORGE'S MD.

FRANCIS DESMITH

6/20/12

MD-INFO

LOOKING NORTHWEST AT TOWERS  
SHOPPING CENTER FACING SOUTH

15/20



PG: 76A-55.

SILVER SPRING COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA  
PRINCE GEORGE'S MD

POUNDER / DE SMITH

6/20/12

MD SAFO

LOOKING NORTHWEST AT TOWERS PLAZA  
SHOPPING CENTER - CENTER  
SOUTH FACADE

16/20



PG 76A-B5.

Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area

PRINCE GEORGES MD

FOUNDER/DESMITH

6/20/12

VMD SAPO

LOOKING SOUTHWEST AT GANDY PARKING  
AT NORTH FACADE

17/20



PG# 76A-55

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA  
PRINCE GEORGE'S, MD

BRENDEN / DESMITH

6/20/12

MID SHED

LOOKING NORTH EAST AT AREA USED  
TIRES AT EAST FACED

18/20



PG: 76A-55.

① SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SURVEY AREA  
PRINCE GEORGE'S MD

BRUNDELL / DE SMITH

6/20/12

MD SAPO

LOOKING SOUTHWEST AT QUANTSET  
HUT (TRAIL LEAD). WEST FACE

19/20



PG: 7A-55

SILVER HILL COMMERCIAL SHED/AREA

PRINCE GEORGE'S MD

FRIENDS OF DESMITH.

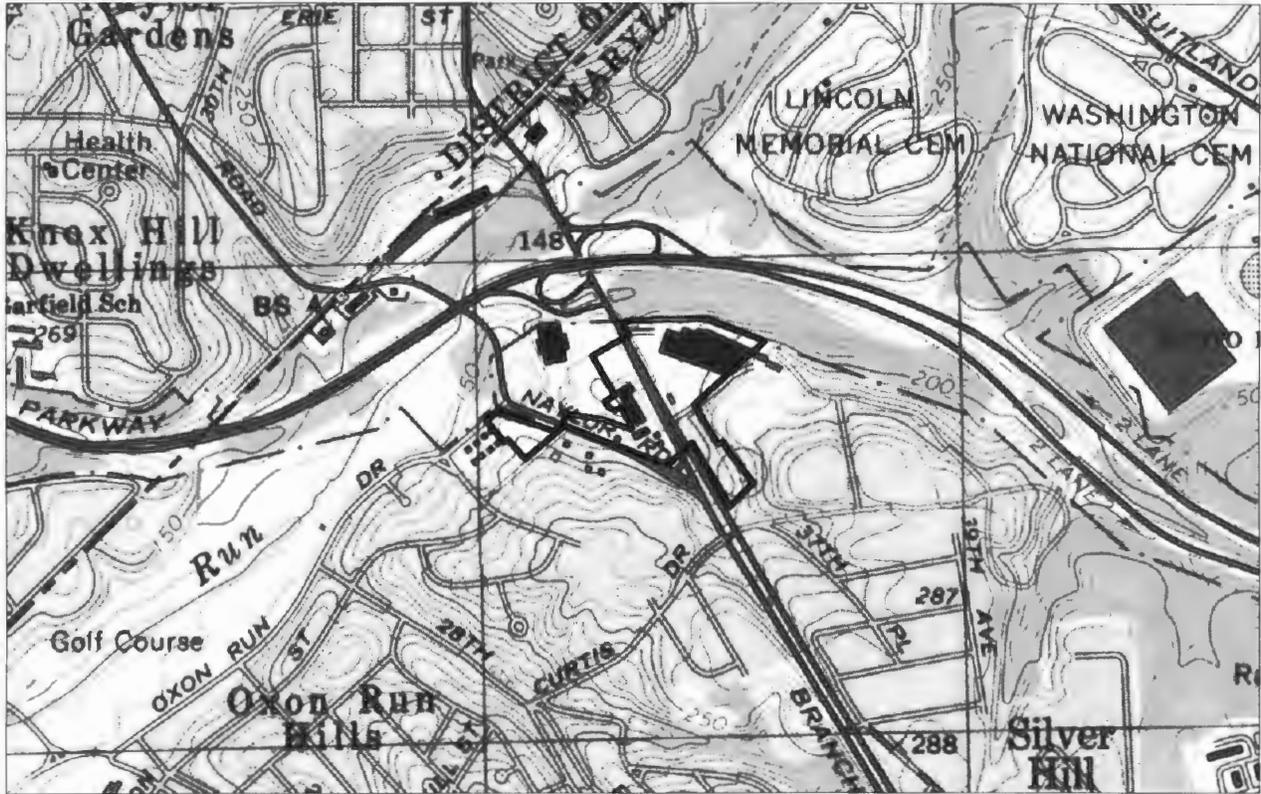
6/20/12

MD SAFE.

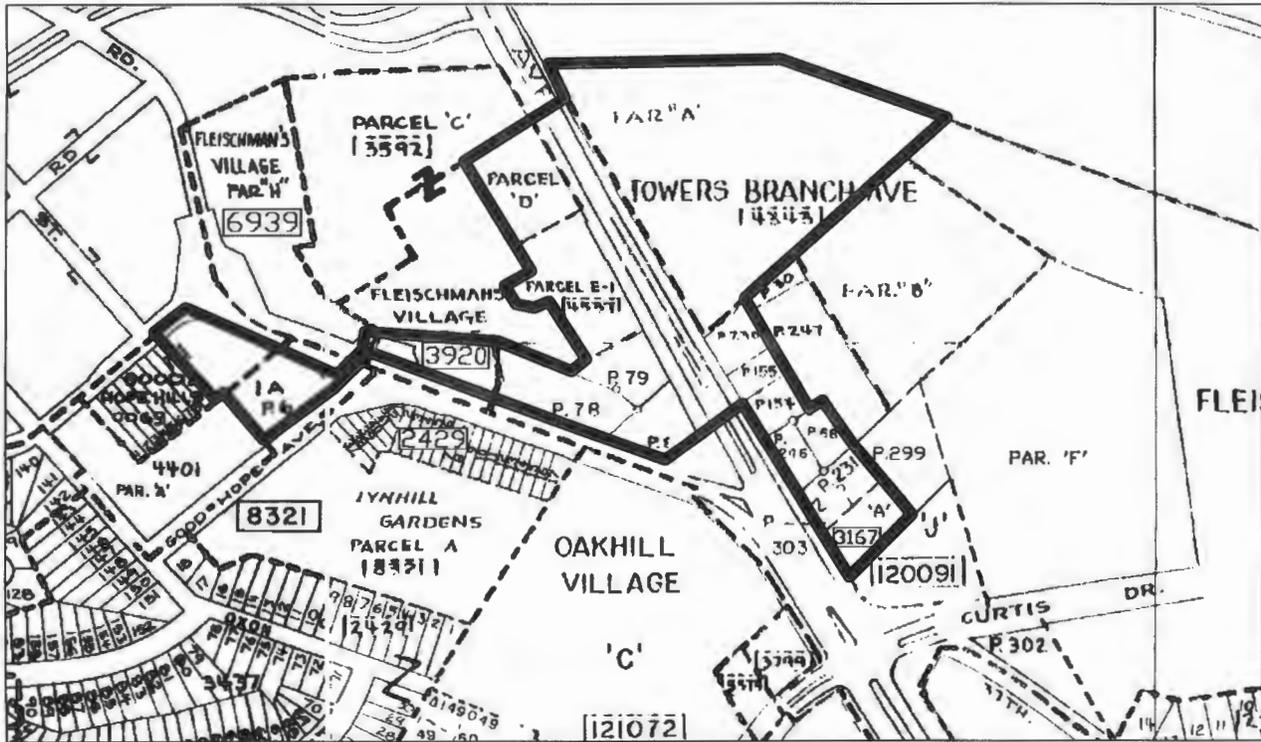
LOOKING NORTHWEST AT GAS HOUSE  
AT SOUTH FACADE & EAST ELEVATION

20/20

PG:76A-55  
 Silver Hill Commercial Survey Area  
 Anacostia Quadrangle 1965, Photorevised 1979, Bathymetry added 1982



Prince George's County Tax Maps 79 and 80



JKC 09/11/2015